



Date: January 7, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending January 7, 2005

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending January 7, 2005 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

Communication efforts to coordinate storm information from Public Works, Parks, Recreation and Marine, Fire, Police and Water Departments during the current storms led to regular updates to the Mayor and Councilmembers, City employees, Long Beach residents, and the media. Information was relayed through memo transmittals, fax and email, and website updates. Several television and radio stations taped City staff at Long Beach locations in their storm clean-up efforts. Information is updated as necessary and can be found at "Storm Update" on the City's homepage, <http://www.longbeach.gov/>.

Storm Update

There is a potential for three major storms beginning Friday afternoon through Sunday night. There is potential for major rain, severe wind, and high tide which will crest on Monday morning. Residents and businesses are encouraged to watch the news for updates and to take preventative measures if they live in areas where flooding may occur. Sandbags are available at all City fire stations. Sand can be obtained at building supply businesses such as Home Depot and Lowe's. City crews will be at the ready during the weekend for any emergency situation.

Flu Clinic 2004 Summary

DHHS provided the flu vaccine to approximately 4,500 seniors and other high-risk individuals at DHHS and Red Cross clinics during November and December 2004. Clinics held at Houghton Park, the Long Beach Senior Center, El Dorado Park, Admiral Kidd Park and the California Recreation Center provided convenient opportunities in diverse neighborhoods. Vaccine was also available daily at the DHHS Walk-In Immunization Clinic. A successful appointment system was developed to assure convenient service and to manage limited vaccine supplies during the nationwide flu vaccine shortage. In addition, DHHS distributed approximately 3,000 doses of flu vaccine to long term care residential facilities and non-profit clinics serving the high-risk population in Long Beach.

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Health and Human Services

Susan Ton, DHHS Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Outreach Collaborative Coordinator, will be going to India on a medical relief mission with an organization called Project Compassion. Susan recently participated in another medical relief mission with this same organization to provide care to several orphanages in the Chennai region of India. This time she is going back to the region, which was hard hit by the earthquake and tsunami on 12/26, to provide disaster relief.

The DHHS Winter Shelter Program opened at the 1st Congregational Church at 3rd and Cedar on Friday, December 17, 2004. New Image is temporarily operating the program at the church until a permanent site can be secured and rehabilitation completed. In the interim, the winter shelter will serve about half of the contracted 200 beds.

Library Services

The Youth Services Division has just added ongoing programming information to the Library's website. Under the Kids and Teens section, a link to the Year Round Programming Calendar publicizes those libraries with programs that continue throughout the year. The Spanish and Khmer translations will be coming soon, through a partnership with the LBUSD. This new calendar is in addition to the special event programming calendar which is published three times annually in print and electronic formats.

Public Works Department - Fleet Services Bureau

Over the last week, challenged by the New Year Holiday weekend and stormy weather, Fleet Services Personnel responded to numerous road calls for service on Police, Fire, and Street Tree equipment with complete success. Fleet Services and Heavy Maintenance Personnel on the night shift, picked up the extra burden of beach maintenance equipment breakdowns during the recent storms.

Public Works Department - Towing Operations

The Towing Operations and Lien Sales Division initiated its annual *Driving Under the Influence Display Car Program* to alert Long Beach residents and visitors on the hazards of driving while impaired. The program involves the display of wrecked vehicles involved in DUI accidents (some fatal) in highly traveled thoroughfares throughout the City. The displays include a sign reading, "Don't Drink and Drive. Buckle Up." Displays were set beginning December 10, 2004 and stayed through the holidays. This program is initiated throughout the year during long weekend holidays such Memorial Day, Labor Day, July 4th and the Christmas Season.

Parks, Recreation and Marine

Beach Operations staff has been repairing existing berms and building higher sand berms on the peninsula in anticipation of the astronomical high tides expected to peak at 7.2' next Monday, January 10. Staff is continuing to haul

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sand to critical areas to stockpile for emergency berm/erosion repairs should they be needed during the upcoming high tide and expected storms.

The recent rainstorms caused serious negative impacts on our five golf courses. The back-to-back storms caused a total of about 30 trees to be blown down or blown apart and hundreds of branches scattered on the courses. A tornado went through Heartwell Golf Course and 12 wooden 50-foot poles holding up the protective netting around the driving range were snapped off at the ground. Sections of the netting were blown to the north side of Carson Street. A large tree fell across the electrical supply cables, and the power was off during a one-day course closure. All courses had varying amounts of standing water on the fairways, which were saturated.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Health and Human Services

On Thursday, January 27 the City of Long Beach will be conducting a citywide Homeless Census. The methodology will be a replication of the March 12, 2003 Count. A steering committee is being convened to plan, coordinate and implement this process.

Fire Department

The American Red Cross has asked the Fire Department to help them in this year's "Knock your Socks Off" program. The program collects NEW socks of any size and gives the socks to the Long Beach Winter Shelter. Their goal this year is to collect over 2,000 pairs of new socks. We have placed a mesh basket on the 1st floor lobby of the ECOC for donations.

The Fire Department will conduct another CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) course consisting of 22 hours of training beginning Monday, January 10, 2005. The FEMA approved course provides information on major disasters including tsunamis. Contact the CERT Hotline at (562) 570-2525 for more information.

New Exhibits at the Main Library

A Continent Waiting: Oil Paintings by Mayoro Niang

Mr. Niang's series of oil paintings are dedicated to the struggle against the spread of AIDS in Africa, particularly in its devastation of women.

Lobby Gallery, Jan. 3 – Feb. 26.

Senegal Streets: Watercolors by Mayoro Niang

Mr. Niang shows a culturally oriented society through street scenes of his native Senegal.

Lower Level Gallery, Jan. – Feb. 26.

Tapestry of Dreams by Students at Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center

This unique artwork uses woodblocks to showcase the dreams and goals of homeless students.

Lobby, Jan. 3 – Feb. 28.

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Adventure Gaming; Miniature Military Collection of Tom Coveney

Miniature figures- historical, science fiction, and fantasy, collected or made by Mr. Coveney to be used in adventure gaming.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

For individuals that have already purchased their homes and would like to sustain the gain of homeownership, we are offering our Post Homeownership seminar on **January 22, 2005, at Caesar Chavez Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This seminar covers everything information such as how to repair credit, foreclosure prevention, predatory lending, and using home equity wisely.

Display Area, Main Level, Jan. 4 – Jan. 29.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

The City of Long Beach Housing Services Bureau will hold a groundbreaking for the Pacific City Lights development on January 24. Staff will hold the ceremony at the development site, located at 1593-1643 Pacific Avenue. The Pacific City Lights Apartments will provide 42 new, large-family rental units for low-income working families. The State of California Low-Income Tax Credit, City HOME funds, a conventional loan from Hanmi Bank and an Affordable Housing Program grant for the Federal Home Loan Bank financed the development.

AWARDS

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to a total of 2,186 emergency calls for service during the combined weeks ending December 28, 2004 and January 4, 2005: 262 calls for fires involved 51 structures. It also responded to 1,421 emergency medical calls; 1,011 requiring paramedic assistance.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

The Long Beach Housing Development Company (LBHDC) held a first-time homebuyer seminar at California Recreation Center on December 11. A total of 40 first-time homebuyers, anxious to learn how to achieve their dream of homeownership attended the event. The 8 hour seminar included a presentation by City staff about the City's various home buying programs.

Parks, Recreation and Marine

At Rotary Centennial Park, construction activities have been slowed by rainy weather. However, work was ahead of schedule before the rain, with the completion of the block wall separating the park from the adjoining residential properties and the seating of the base for the concrete work. All playground and sports court equipment and the shade structure are on order and due to arrive in early February.

Work continued on accessibility improvements inside the restrooms at Pan American Park.

Library Services

The Youth Services Division has just added ongoing programming information to the Library's website. Under the Kids and Teens section, a link to the Year Round Programming Calendar publicizes those libraries with programs that continue throughout the year. The Spanish and Khmer translations will be coming soon, through a partnership with the LBUSD. This new calendar is in addition to the special event programming calendar which is published three times annually in print and electronic formats.

Public Works Department – Engineering / Street Maintenance

The Street Trees Division reported 87 trees lost due the storm related damage. In addition, staff responded to 136 limbs down, 23 limbs hanging and 13 reports of damaged vehicles. Street Maintenance staff responded to flooding at 17 locations throughout the City by placing signs and barricades as necessary. Crews incurred a total of 278.5 hours of overtime, working to clear roadways and trees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fire Department

The Fire Department had a very successful “Spark of Love” Christmas Drive with hundreds of Long Beach families receiving donated gifts; toys, clothing and food.

On Tuesday, December 21st, twelve families were treated to lunch compliments of SuperMex, given a behind-the-scene tour of the Aquarium of the Pacific and received toys and canned goods from the Long Beach Fire Department’s “Spark of Love” Christmas Drive Program.

On Wednesday, December 22nd, volunteers of the LBFD Kids program along with Santa Claus handed out bags of goodies and reindeer candy canes to the child patients at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center’s Millers Children’s Hospital.

Parks, Recreation and Marine

On New Year's Day 2005, five youth commissioners from the Commission on Youth and Children joined Mayor O'Neill and her grandson on the Long Beach float entry in this year's Pasadena Rose Parade. The commissioners were Pierre Batton, representing the 1st District; Sotheara Chhay, 6th District; Kate Levinstein, 8th District; Lou Santos, 9th District; and Chelsii Summerville, of the 4th District.

January 8, 2005, the Office of Intervention and Prevention Services Attitude Crew Program held its Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Pre-Parade Clean up. From 8:00 - 11:00 a.m., youth and community volunteers cleaned up the parade route

on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, from 7th Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. They also passed out flyers in the community for the upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and celebration to take place on Saturday, January 15, 2005. Following the clean up and flyer distributions, participants were served food and refreshments donated by the Long Beach Central Area Association and enjoyed entertainment by youth from Homeland MacArthur Parks Millennium Dance Squad

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Community Development, Property Services Bureau

The Long Beach City Council approved the Second Amendment to Lease No. 23828 with Pacifica Downtown Plaza, L.P. for the office premises at 211 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 500. The leased premises are used to house the City's Department of Oil Properties on August 24, 2004. The Second Amendment extends the term of the Lease for five years and provides one option to terminate the agreement at the end of the 30th month. The Lease was fully executed by both parties in December, thereby allowing the Landlord to proceed with the "build-to-suit" tenant improvements. In addition, the Tenant shall have the rent waived for the months of February, March and April of 2005.

Public Works

Te Towing Operations and Lien Sales Division impounded 12 vehicles in support of the LBPD's Prostitution Abatement Program (John Sting) conducted on December 16, 2004.

Parks, Recreation and Marine

The surveys of residents, Downtown Long Beach Associates members, and City Hall employees concerning restoration of Lincoln Park have been tabulated. A strong response occurred with over 350 surveys received. Although the clear majority of responses favored a primarily passive park without sports activities, no clear picture emerged as to what the park should be. The top responses were for more of the basic park amenities of seating and benches, trees, landscaping, restrooms, drinking fountains, and a walking/jogging track.

The Parks Department is continuing to work with the Long Beach Water Department on water conservation measures on street islands.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,263 work orders, which included 607 gas service turn on orders, and 626 gas service turn off orders. The work orders also included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, verifying read orders, meter maintenance and billing-related orders. Gas Services responded to 141 customer emergency calls for service orders and Gas Dispatch answered 784 gas emergency related telephone calls.

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